

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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Sub A3
1. A method for operating a personal digital assistant having an input means, a file storage means, a data base, a search engine means; a display means, and an electronic communication means, comprising the steps of:

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storing in the data base one or more records of names and relatable calling numbers;

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choosing a directory from the data base to display searchable data contained in the records;

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inputting a search key relatable to a datum element in one or more records;

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comparing the search key to the data elements in the files and displaying in said directory one or more records in which the datum element matches the search key;

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selecting a record from said directory in accordance with the location of an indicator on a display, denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing device or a contact and a selection frame in the display;

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utilizing information in the selected record to initiate one of a plurality of forms of electronic communication to a selected recipient.

2. The method as described in claim 1, wherein comparing the search key comprises the steps of:

- 5 inputting a search key representing the alphanumeric string to be searched;
- 10 setting a first variable to the number of records to be checked;
- 15 setting a first index to one to keep account of the records checked;
- 20 setting a second variable to the alphanumeric string to be searched;
- 25 setting a third variable to TRUE if the record has been checked otherwise setting the third variable to FALSE, and if the third variable is FALSE then reading the second variable from the record;
- 30 comparing the condition whether the search key matches the second variable stored in the record, and if it is determined that the search key matches the second variable, then, the record is displayed; and
- 35 incrementing the first and determining whether the first index equals the first variable number of records to be checked and if the first index does not equal the first variable, then the search process repeats until all records matching the search key are displayed.

- 35 3. A method for operating a personal digital assistant having an input means, a file storage means, a data base, a search engine means; a display means, and an

electronic communications means comprising the steps of:

- 5 storing in the data base one or more records of names and relatable calling numbers comprising a directory;
- 10 choosing an application to input a message content;
- 15 selecting a record from said directory in accordance with the location of an indicator on a display, denoted by at least one of a cursor, a pointing device or a contact and a selection frame in the display;
- 20 utilizing information in the selected record to address the message content.
- 25 4. The method as described in claim 3, wherein the data base is also used to route an electronic communication for the message content.
- 30 5. The method as described in claim 3, wherein the further steps of selecting a message content directory and sending the message content immediately or sending at a later time.
- 35 6. A personal digital assistant device comprising:
 a storage means having a data base with one or more records of names and relatable recipient electronic communications descriptors;
 a directory relatable to said records;

an input means for inputting a search key relatable to a datum element in one or more said records;

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a search engine to search the data base and compare the records to the search key;

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a display for showing the directory of said records that compare to the search key;

an input means to select a calling record in the directory; and

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an electronic communication means connected to the personal digital assistant to initiate one or more applications relatable to an electronic communication of a message content based on a description of the record selected.

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7. The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 6, wherein the input means to select a calling record in the directory is comprised of a QWERTY keyboard.

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8. The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 6, wherein the input means is comprised of a telephone keypad.

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9. The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 6, wherein the input means is comprised of a touch screen.

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10. The personal digital assistant device as in Claim 6, wherein the input means is comprised of a voice recognition means.

11. The personal digital assistant device as in
Claim 6 wherein the recipient electronic communications
descriptors include at least one of a telephone number, a
facsimile number, an E-mail address, a paging address,
5 and an Internet IP address.

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